

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

School Education Department– Certain amendments to Andhra Pradesh Educational Institutions (Establishment, Recognition, Administration and Control of schools under private managements) Rules, 1993 - Orders -Issued.

EDUCATION (SE-PS.I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.123

Dated: 27-9-2008.

Read the following:-

G.O.Ms.No.1, Education (PS.2) Department, dated 1-1-1994

O R D E R:

In a recent incident on the outskirts of Hyderabad City, in a Junior College building, students dispersing upon completion of the class located in a higher floor (third floor in this case) reportedly came as a rushing body out of the room into the corridor. As the corridor was relatively narrow, the body of dispersing students reportedly pressed on to the parapet wall with the force of students coming out of the classroom from behind. It is understood that the parapet wall was very thin and flimsy, and was only about 4 inches in thickness, and constructed with simple brick and cement-mortar. As a result of the above factors, the parapet wall gave way, and a large number of students fell down from the third floor of the building, to the ground. As a result, one of these students died, and about 13 others had serious injuries of loss of limb, etc.

2. Government in School Education Department have considered the above incident with serious concern, and have carefully examined the entire issue of structural soundness of buildings in which schools are located. According to Section 20(3)(b)(ii) of the AP Education Act, every agency intending to open a school, is required to submit together with the requisite application for permission, "plans approved by the local authority concerned, which shall confirm to the rules prescribed therefor".

3. The present building rules of the local authorities in whose jurisdiction the school buildings are located, are mainly framed with residential units in view. These rules may not visualize these buildings being used to house educational institutions, where in each room a large number of students will be assembling for a given period of time, and after the completion of the classes in a session, disperse at a single point of time, and make efforts to come out of the rooms and the building, using narrow corridors and staircases. The rules may also not visualize the fact that all these students who occupy such buildings and the rooms therein, would be either children or adolescents, studying 6th to 10th or 12th class (aged 10 to 17 years), at which age the children are likely to be ebullient, rash and even negligent towards their own safety. It is therefore felt necessary that all school buildings that have classroom in floors above the ground floor, have adequate and appropriate safeguards and requisite features of structural strength to prevent any accidents of the type and nature that occurred recently in the state.

4. In the circumstances stated above and in the interest of the physical safety of students studying in schools that have more than one floor(i.e. more than ground floor), the Government stipulate that all such school buildings shall immediately confirm to the standards of National Building Code for Educational Institutions, and Indian Standards Code IS:8827.1978 in respect of the following items:

- (i) Corridors;
- (ii) Staircases, their width and rise, and their number per given area of floor space;
- (iii) Parapets;
- (iv) Exits, their number and specifications;
- (v) Ramps;
- (vi) Circulation Areas;
- (vii) Fire Protection norms.

5. In addition to the above, the Government also direct all existing schools in the state that have classrooms in more than ground floor, shall have additional safety

features in respect of certain critical areas in the school buildings at first and higher floors in respect of their structural design, construction and strength.

6. Accordingly the following notification shall be published in the Andhra Pradesh Gazette.

NOTIFICATION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 99 read with section 20 of Andhra Pradesh Education Act .1982 (Andhra Pradesh Act No.1 of 1982) the Governor of Andhra Pradesh hereby makes the following amendments to the Andhra Pradesh Educational Institutions (Establishment, Recognition, Administration and Control of schools under private managements) Rules, 1993 issued in G.O.Ms.No.1, Education (PS.2) Department, dated 1- 1-1994 as subsequently amended.

A M E N D M E N T S

In rule 5, after sub-rule (16), the following shall be added, namely,-

16 (a)	All the school buildings that have more than one floor (i.e. more than ground floor), shall immediately confirm to the standards of National Building Code for Educational Institutions, and Indian Standards Code IS:8827.1978 in respect of the following items: (i) Corridors; (ii) Staircases, their width and rise, and their number per given area of floor space; (iii) Parapets; (iv) Exits, their number and specifications; (v) Ramps; (vi) Circulation Areas; (vii) Fire Protection norms.
16 (b)	All open corridors (with only one set of classrooms on one side, and the other side being open) shall be of a minimum of 2.0 meters clear width, and also comply with other stipulations of the building codes as stated above
16 (c)	No open corridors or staircases in any school shall be constructed on a cantilever design; all open corridors and staircases shall be constructed with supporting RCC columns on all sides, from ground floor level upwards;
16 (d)	All parapet walls of open corridors (including those on the corridors and staircases) shall be of RCC / RCM facia construction (3 inches thick) and be of a minimum height of 1.2 meters (4 feet), with vertical reinforcement steel bars from the slab being taken in extension into the parapet, and with horizontal reinforcement steel bars being adequately placed, and linked to the RCC columns to either side
16(e)	All closed corridors (with rows of classes being placed on either side of the corridor) shall be of a minimum of 2.5 meters width.
16(f)	All staircases shall be of a minimum of 1.5 meters flight-width; and each stair's raise and tread shall be 15 cm and 30 cm respectively; there shall be a landing after every 12 steps in the staircase;
16(g)	There shall be one set of staircases for every 30 meters length (or part thereof) of corridor; (e.g., two staircases for more than 30 and up to 60 meters length of corridor; three staircases for more than 60 and up to 90 meters length of corridor;
16(h)	There shall be no exit doors to any rooms that open directly to the stairs;
16(i)	No High-tension electricity lines shall pass within the distance as mentioned in the Code as described above; and shall be at least 2.0 meters away from any side of the school; and no such high-tension lines shall pass over the school buildings;
16(j)	All buildings with more than ground floor, shall satisfy fire-safety norms, and obtain certificate from the Fire department thereof.

7. The Director of School Education shall take periodical action to constitute teams of inspecting officers with at least one Engineer in the team, to inspect all schools in each district that have more than ground floor (i.e., first and higher floors) with class rooms, libraries, laboratories, etc.. School may be given up to a maximum of three months time from the date of this order to conform to the building specifications and make necessary improvements and modifications. If after the specified time, the schools do not fulfill the safety features in buildings as described above, the District Educational Officers shall initiate action under Section 21 of the AP Education Act 1982, and paragraph 11 of Andhra Pradesh Educational Institutions (Establishment, Recognition, Administration, and Control of Schools under Private Managements) Rules 1993, issued in G.O. Ms. No. 1, Education (P.S.2) Department Dated 01.10.1994, for withdrawal of recognition for such schools that do not conform to the above stipulations in respect of building safety and structural strength features, and levy of fines as provided under the law.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

Dr.C.B.S.VENKATA RAMANA
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Commissioner printing and stationery Department, Chanchalguda (2 copies) with
a request to publish in A.P. gazette and supply 500 copies to the Government
Copy to
The Director of School Education, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.
All the District Collectors in the State
All the Regional Joint Directors of School Education.
All the District Educational Officers
Education (PS.II) Section,
P.S to M (SE)
P.S to Principal, Secretary to Government, School Education Department.
SF/SC

// FORWARDED:: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER